NFWF SUPPORT FOR LAND CONSERVATION IN VIRGINIA

Virginia’s United Land Trusts

February 6, 2023
WHO IS “NFWF”?

Who We Are
• Chartered by Congress in 1984
• Independent 501(c)(3) organization
• 30-member Board appointed by Sec. of the DOI
  • Includes FWS Dir. and NOAA Adm.

What We Do
• Sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations
• Bring collaboration among federal agencies and private sector

How We Do It
• Leverage public funding with private money – average 3:1

NFWF is
• An implementer – we fund projects

NFWF is not
• An advocacy organization that engages in lobbying or litigation
HOW WE WORK

Non-Federal Funding Partners
- Corporations
- Foundations
- Private Donors
- States
- NGOs

$ NFWF
Convener of focused, leveraged funding and leadership for priority wildlife and habitat conservation through grant making

$ Federal Funding Partners
- Appropriations
- Discretionary Cooperative Agreements

Competitive Grants/Strategies
NFWF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN VIRGINIA

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
• Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants
• Small Watershed Grants
• Chesapeake WILD Grants

National Programs
• Acres for America
• American the Beautiful Challenge
• National Coastal Resilience Fund
SMALL WATERSHED GRANTS

- Delivered in partnership with EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Program

SWG Program Priorities

1. Managing Agricultural and Urban Runoff
2. Improving Water Quality and Stream Health Through Riparian Restoration and Conservation
3. Enhancing and Protecting Freshwater Habitat for Eastern Brook Trout
4. Enhancing and Protecting Tidal and Estuarine Habitat
5. Enhancing Nature-Based Resilience for Human Communities
6. Building Capacity for Landscape-Scale Watershed and Habitat Planning, Design, and Implementation
CHESAPEAKE WILD GRANTS

- Delivered in partnership with **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, informed by [FWS’s Chesapeake WILD Framework](#)

WILD Program Pillars

1. Fish and Wildlife Habitats
2. Climate Change
3. Community Partnership
4. Public Access
5. Water Quality
<table>
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<tr>
<th>CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND – PROGRAM COMPARISON</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Intended Outcome(s)</strong></td>
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<td>Nutrient and sediment load reduction</td>
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| **Annual Program Timeline** | **INSR** | **SWG** | **WILD** |
|• RFP Release: August | • RFP Release: February | • RFP Release: February |
|• Proposals Due: November | • Proposals Due: April | • Proposals Due: April |
|• Award: March | • Award: August | • Award: August |

| **Available Funding and Award Range** | **INSR** | **SWG** | **WILD** |
| ~$20M (ann.) | ~$25M (ann.) | ~$8-14M (ann.) |
| $500,000 – $1M | $0 – $500,000 | $0 – $750,000 |

| **Match Requirements** | **INSR** | **SWG** | **WILD** |
| 1:1 (Non-Federal) | Encouraged, not required | 1:1 (Up to half Federal, Non-DOI) |

| **Applicant Eligibility** | **INSR** | **SWG** | **WILD** |
| State, local, Tribal gov’t; Universities; Non-profits | Local and Tribal gov’t; Non-profits | State, local, Tribal gov’t; Universities; Non-profits |

| **Eligibility for Land Conservation** | **INSR** | **SWG** | **WILD** |
| Incidental to on-site WQ improvement; Transaction costs only | Alignment with program priorities; Transaction costs only | Alignment with program priorities; Transaction and acquisition/easement costs |
ACRES FOR AMERICA

• NFWF’s marquee national land conservation program, delivered in partnership with Walmart
• Extremely competitive national program – 4-8 projects funded annually

ATBC Program Priorities

• Project Scale and Program Priorities
• Protect Critical Fish and Wildlife Species
• Expand Wildlife Connectivity
• Expand Public Access to Nature

• Benefit Local Economies
• Provide a Range of Ecological Services
• Under Threat of Conversion
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL CHALLENGE

• Delivered in partnership with DOI, DOD, U.S. Forest Service, and NRCS
• Extremely competitive national program – <10% of proposals awarded

ATBC Program Priorities

• Benefit At-Risk Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Species
• Expand Habitat Connectivity
• Provide a Range of Ecosystem Services
• Strengthen Ecosystem and Community Resilience
• Expand Public and Community Access to Nature
• Engage Local Communities
• Support Tribally Led Conservation and Restoration Priorities
• Contribute to Local or Tribal Economies
• Contribute to Workforce Development
• **States, Territories, and Tribal Implementation Grants**
  Grants ranging from $1 million to $5 million; Non-federal match encouraged, but not required

• **Planning, Collaboration and Engagement for States, Territories and Tribes**
  Grants of $200,000 to $1,000,000; Non-federal match encouraged, but not required

• **Grants to Buffer and Benefit Public Lands (i.e., DOD, NFS)**
  Grants ranging from $250,000 to $1.5 million; 10-20% Non-federal match

• **Private Forests, Rangeland and Farmland Grants**
  Grants ranging from $200,000 to $500,000 (aligned with NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife); 1:1 Non-federal match

*Nonprofits eligible*
NATIONAL COASTAL RESILIENCE FUND

• Delivered in partnership with NOAA, DOD, and private funding partners
• Targets all coastal HUC-8 watersheds that drain to the sea and any adjacent HUC 8 watersheds that are particularly low-lying or tidally influenced

Primary NCRF Program Priorities
• Nature-Based Solutions
• Community Resilience Benefit
• Fish and Wildlife Benefit

Additional NCRF Program Priorities
• Community Impact and Engagement
• Innovation, Transferability, and Sustainability
NATIONAL COASTAL RESILIENCE FUND – PROJECT CATEGORIES

Community Capacity Build and Planning
Grants ranging from $100,000 – $1 million

Site Assessment and Preliminary Design
Grants ranging from $100,000 – $1 million

Final Design and Permitting
Grants ranging from $100,000 – $1 million

Restoration Implementation
Grants ranging from $1 million – $10 million

*Non-federal match encouraged for all NCRF proposals*
**PROJECT CASE STUDY**

**Program:** INSR

**Awardee:** Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley

**Project Title:** Scaling Up Agricultural Best Practices Through the Shenandoah Valley Conservation Collaborative (VA)

**Award Amount:** $996,620

**Match/Leverage Amount:** $3,645,538

- DCR (VACS)
- VA Battlefield Preservation Grants
- American Battlefield Protection Program
- VA Land Conservation Fund
Program: SWG
Awardee: Piedmont Environmental Council
Project Title: Installing and Restoring Riparian Buffers in the Upper Rappahannock and Potomac watersheds (VA)
Award Amount: $263,802
Match/Leverage Amount: $188,138
• Private foundations
• Conservation Legacy-Appalachian Conservation Corps
PROJECT CASE STUDY

Program: WILD
Awardee: West Virginia Land Trust
Project Title: Restoring James Spinymussel Along Potts Creek (WV)
Award Amount: $499,824
Match/Leverage Amount: $296,825
• FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife*
• WV DNR
• In-kind design/engineering services
Program: Acres for America
Awardee: Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia
Project Title: Conserving Indigenous Rappahannock Ancestral Lands at Fones Cliffs on the Rappahannock River (VA)
Award Amount: $500,000
Match/Leverage Amount: $3,500,000
  • Private donors (via Chesapeake Conservancy capital gift)
ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
https://www.nfwf.org/programs/chesapeake-bay-stewardship-fund

Acres for American
https://www.nfwf.org/programs/acres-america

America the Beautiful Challenge
https://www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge

National Coastal Resilience Fund
https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund
FOR QUESTIONS AND PROJECT/PROPOSAL CONSULTATIONS

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